

THE SLATE

Newsletter for Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club
Editor: Dianna Morris, Phone: (405) 501-0708, Email: tomstillady@live.com



A Stone's Throw Away ... (Thoughts From Our Club President-Shanda McDonald)

NOTES OF INTEREST

A recent Board Meeting was held to discuss, review and revise, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. Please see attached Board of Directors' Meeting minutes for further explanation.

DUES ARE DUE

If you have not made payment of your annual dues, please due so immediately to Tony Knox, Treasurer.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$20.00
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP -
\$15.00
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP - \$6.00

Oh Happy Weird Winter to our Wonderful Rock Peeps!!

So, I see asparagus and rhubarb roots on sale in the garden section. A few perfect days of 60F+ to 70F, and I'm out digging, prepping, planting and mulching, then, Poof! - sub freezing temps on Thursday. What was I thinking? Oh well, at least I got a chance to get my hands dirty.

How have you been spending your spare time this winter dearest ones? As I write this, I imagine Miss Dottie with her Japanese braiding, making beautiful necklaces of sparkly chord with matching stones. Marcus has texted pictures of his forge and the wire cable knife he's working on, so I know he's been a busy bee. I wonder if Randy has been turning intricate candelabras with his metal lathe, or Miss Arlene dabbling with her beautiful copper etching? My tumbler sits waiting for reassembly after Mac made new bearing housings for the new bearings. (Why this is would involve a long story that would be best told with interpretative dance ;-)). Maybe all of you are itching for Spring like I am. I know our first big outing **to hunt Selenite crystals** at the Salt Plains will be over the first days of Spring, and my heart is light just thinking about that.

I'm really looking forward to our February Club meeting. (After an informal gathering of the Board of Directors to read through our Club Constitution and ByLaws, I feel a renewed sense of pride and hope for the future of our club). I'm excited to share what I learned. 2014 is going to be a year of growth and beginnings, (maybe not for my asparagus and rhubarb), but at least for our amazing group of rock hounds!

Love you all dearly!!!!!!
Shanda

MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Second Tuesday of each month at
First United Bank - Employees' Lunch Room - left side of building
912 East Independence, Shawnee, OK*

*Juniors - 5:30 pm
Regular - 6:30 pm*



NUGGETS OF GOLD. . .*THE JUNIORS*



Our January Rock Hounding Adventures

By: The Briant Kids

January..... Cold, Hot, Cold, Hot, Cold, Cold..... And maybe some snow for the first week in February. The weather has kept us in a lot this month. We are looking forward to spring (and for a more consistent temperature)!

This month we got to hunt Boley Agates and petrified wood. We found a few nice ones.

We also got to go to the Sarkey Energy Center on the OU campus with the Ada Gem and Mineral Club. We got to see the displays of minerals and the classrooms with the specimens that they use for teaching. It was a neat trip.

We (Elizabeth, Rebekah, Lillian, and Joshua) would like to take time to say a few words to George... George, we will miss you. We will forever remember your kind heart and the things you shared with us. You made rock club a special place for us. Thank you.



Please note that two of our dear club members, Dottie Smith, is under the weather with pneumonia.

Also, LaJuana Valentine is still receiving radiation treatment for lymphoma.

If you get a chance, please give Dottie & LaJuana a call or drop them a card to let them know you are thinking about them.

BIRTHDAYS

06 - Mandie Briant
09 - Gary McDonald
11 - Arlene Collins

ANNIVERSARIES

18 - Bob & Charlotte Rogers
18 - Gary & Shanda McDonald

GEM STONE HIGHLIGHT

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia



Amethyst - Aids in the reduction of insomnia, arthritis, pain relief, and circulatory issues. Amethyst is considered the gemstone of meditation, peace, balance, courage, and inner strength

Munchies for February meeting will be provided by Arlene Collins with drinks by Mandie Briant

Board of Directors' Meeting January 21, 2014

Officers present: Shanda McDonald, President, Marcus Carson, Vice-President, Tony Knox – Treasurer, Robin Elliott-Secretary
Members at Large present: Tom Morris / **Committee Members** present: Mandie Briant, Field Trip Coordinator, Zelda Marsh, Sunshine Committee, Dianna Morris, Editor / **Members** present: Llewellyn Alspach, Bill Marsh, Kenneth Sheldon, Barbra Sheldon, LaJuana Valentine, Lynette Gandy, Annie Elliott, Lainie Portrey, Leah Portrey

This meeting was called to order by Club President Shanda McDonald. The Constitution and By Laws were read with any suggested changes discussed. The changes will be made by Treasurer Tony Knox and a copy will be available to all members who will be given an appropriate time to review these changes and a discussion allowed before a motion will be made or a vote taken to accept or reject these changes.

Motion to adjourn was made by Robin Elliott with a second by Dianna Morris.

WE REMEMBER



GEORGE DAHL FINLEY
1935 - 2014

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of George, but our thoughts are quickened to all the wonderful acts of kindness he gave to the Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club.

He was one of the first members when the club was formed in 1989. He served the club as past president, vice president and editor. He also served as past president of the Rollin' Rock Club and the Oklahoma State Council.

George was born in Oklahoma City on May 13, 1935. He was the baby, with two older sisters and a brother. He had a traveling childhood attending schools in Oklahoma and California, graduating from Capitol Hill High School in OKC in 1955. He later attended Central State College for a couple of years.

George served his country from 1953 to 1960 in the U.S. Navy, serving in Guam and the Philippines as an electrician for the Seabees.

He retired after 30 years of civil service at Tinker AFB and 23 years at a local bank as a computer operator. Many will remember him from playing Santa Clause for many years for the city of Choctaw.

George was honored throughout his life for the numerous activities and good deeds he gave so graciously. When interviewed by Llewellyn Alspach, Editor, for a "Rockhound of the Month" article in 2008, most of which this article comes from (thank you Llewellyn), he said he couldn't remember all the names of the awards, but one that stood out was being named Outstanding Athlete in the 7th and 9th grades was one, for writing the newsletter for the RRC, and Outstanding Editor in 2007.

The Oklahoma barite rock roses were George's favorite rock and he a display case of them that he showed at several shows. He enjoyed all aspects of the rockhound hobby and especially teaching others about rocks and what you could do with them. He was very active with the Junior's program and enjoyed working with them and teaching them. He loved demonstrating wire wrapping at our functions and helping with other shows in the area.

George said one of the greatest things he received out of the hobby of rockhounding was all the friends he made everywhere. He said, "I believe we should work to teach that being a rockhound is not a bad word and I hope I leave enough information for others to better enjoy the hobby." He encouraged many to participate in Rockhound Day at the Choctaw Library and it was an event many of us came to enjoy and looked forward to.

It would have been a rare meeting of the Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club you did see George. George was a very devoted and respected member of our Club and it was always a pleasure to visit with him as he shared his knowledge of a hobby he loved.

He leaves behind his wife, Loretta of 60 years, sons, Ron and Stan, and many friends who will miss him deeply.

Rest in Peace Our Friend

Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2014

19 members present
9 Junior members present
(42 total club memberships)

Call to Order was issued by President Shanda McDonnald.

Quorum: 45% members and 2 officers - a quorum is present

Old Business: Dianna suggested that the club decline to participate this year in "Boo on Bell" in which the club agreed.

Plans to construct a black light booth for use in our display was discussed with Marcus offering to take on the project with the help of Tom. Tom brought to our attention that we need to give this committee an idea of the dollar amount that could be spent. It is thought that an appropriate black light will cost around \$300.00. George offered to donate a black light that he has setting around his house, but is not sure it will be big enough. Mandie offered a description of the booth that the Ada club uses. Kenneth also had some good advice on the cost of an appropriate black light.

New Business: Rock Hound Days at the Choctaw Library will be on Saturday, March 2 from 9:00-3:00. Shanda suggested some activities that members could set up at this event. Please think of what you could bring to make this event spectacular.

A **Director's Meeting** will be held sometime this month to review the Constitution and By Laws. Dianna said that the club has a set of By Laws and Tom said he had a copy which he would bring to the Director's meeting.

George offered to bring a movie for us to watch about three gold panners looking for gold. It should be a comical presentation.

Snacks: Arlene will be bringing snacks and Mandie drinks for the February meeting. Shanda pointed out that since our club is getting so big, it might be harder for only one family to bring enough snacks for everyone, so if you are on snack duty and need some help, please let her know. Shanda has asked Lynette to be in charge of snacks - a new committee! Yeah!!! Robin asked Dianna if she could keep a snack list with those who have signed up in the newsletter.

Shanda brought to our attention that Llewellyn is having an issue with her computer and no longer has the software to produce it like she has in the past. When asked what she needed to help, she responded emphatically, "I need someone to take over the newsletter!!!" To which Dianna Morris stepped up and said, "I'll do it!" Thanks so much Dianna and a BIGGGG BIGGGG THANK YOU to Lewellyn for so many years of faithful service as our official SGMC Editor. Kenneth added his thanks and the club sang, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" to her!

George talked about the need to have a web site for the club. This issue was discussed, but no decisions were agreed upon. Marcus suggested that a member do research as to which domain we will use so that we can control what ads will/won't pop up on our site. Mandie has been doing a good job of keeping the Facebook page up-to-date.

Lynette brought up the subject of having photos of members added to our membership book. Lively discussion followed and most people liked the idea. Llewellyn informed that the treasurer is in charge and responsible for producing the membership book.

A motion to accept November meeting minutes will be made during the February meeting.

Motion to **adjourn** was made by Robin Elliott with a second by Kenneth Sheldon.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN EDITOR INFORMATION

NEW EDITOR:

Dianna Morris

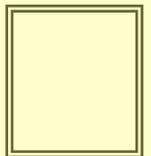
Email Address: slateeditor52@yahoo.com

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I want to personally thank Llewellyn Alspach for her hard work in being the Editor of our wonderful newsletter, "*The Slate*", for these past years.

THE SLATE

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